

ACTIVITY-BASED EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Grades 3-6
Grades 6-12
- Footsteps Through the Fort** (2 hours) Revised and improved. Students in small groups with sponsors experience a social studies-math-science adventure. Emphasizes map reading skills. At each stop, students answer color-coded questions. For a multi-disciplinary approach, choose all-color questions (rainbow track), or for a single discipline approach choose only blue (social studies), or red (math), or green (science) questions. Includes "Mystery Photo" that requires clues to identify. Can help improve TAKS scores in a fun, hands-on, real-world way!
- Grades K-5
- Touch the Past!** (1½ hours) An Apache cradleboard... a pen that's a *feather*... a button hook for shoes? This bag is just *full* of the strangest things! They must be leftovers from olden days at Fort Davis. Handle an object. Imagine it's yours. But who did it *really* belong to? Students are challenged to locate similar objects in the refurbished buildings as they explore the Fort with a sponsor who carries objects in a haversack like the soldiers used. This multi-disciplinary program is hands-on learning at its best.
- Grades 3-5
- Tell Me More—Photo Activity** (1½ hours) Don't you *love* old family photos? Kids do too! Let their imagination run wild as they carry photos around the Fort in this challenging & fun social studies / language arts program. Students make believe the photos are from their own family history and invent stories of imaginary ancestors to later share with the class. Students "step back in time" and imagine what life was like without electricity, running water, or an indoor toilet. Each student should bring notebook & pen.
- Grades 6-12
- The Fort Davis Bugle: Tell it Like it Was—Publish an Old-Time Newspaper** (2 hours) Here's a program for your college-bound students. The *Bugle* "publishes" story features and advertisements for folks stationed at Fort Davis back when it was an active frontier army post. Students create a newspaper about people and events at the Fort in the 1880s. Stories can be shared back at school. This program has a strong emphasis on creative thinking, English writing & grammar skills, and History in a vibrant context. Each student should bring a notebook and pen.
- Grades 6-12
- Technology Past, Present & Future: Earthcaching** (2-3 hours) Students use a GPS (Global Positioning System) receiver to explore the fort and compare 1800s technology with modern technology, using critical thinking skills to predict what technology will be like in the future. Students are challenged to consider such concepts as what it would have been like for soldiers in the mid-to-late 1800s to have radios, computers, calculators, cell phones, and GPS receivers. Teachers are encouraged to introduce students ahead of time to a GPS. Park has 10 GPS units to loan (you may bring extras). At the park, class is divided into as many small groups as there are sponsors. Bring batteries (2-AA's for each GPS) and a camera for each small group.

PARK VIDEO

15-minute video shows in the auditorium every ½ hour or upon special request.

A short history of Fort Davis.

RETREAT PARADE SOUND PROGRAM

Plays outdoors on loudspeakers at 11:00, 2:00, and 4:00; length 18 minutes.

This audio program is based on a historic ceremony performed at Fort Davis in 1875 to honor former U.S. President, Andrew Johnson, who died that year.

FOR YOUR CLASSROOM: Traveling Trunks

To bring history into your classroom, the traveling trunks are loaned out for one or two weeks to schools within 100 miles of the park. The “Buffalo Soldiers in the 19th Century” and

“Frontier Women in the American West” trunks contain lesson plans, as well as soldiers’ uniforms, military equipment, and period women’s clothes.

The TEKS-compliant trunks for grades 4 – 9 are delivered and picked up by the park.